



LIBRARY

Macclesfield Rural District Council



REPORT

on the

Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1951



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

C. D. CORMAC, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H.
(Resigned—September, 1951)

H. R. DUGDALE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Acting from October to December, 1951)

SANITARY INSPECTOR :

WILLIAM WATSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR :

B. J. OVERBURY, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29779637>

Macclesfield Rural District Council



REPORT

on the

Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1951



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

C. D. CORMAC, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H.
(Resigned—September, 1951)

H. R. DUGDALE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Acting from October to December, 1951)

SANITARY INSPECTOR :

WILLIAM WATSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR :

B. J. OVERBURY, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

To the Chairman and Members of the Macclesfield Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Rural District of Macclesfield for the year 1951.

During the year under review, your previous Medical Officer of Health, Dr. C. D. Cormac, terminated his appointment in September. For the remainder of the year the duties of Medical Officer of Health were undertaken by Dr. H. R. Dugdale, of Macclesfield Borough. It is in respect of the work done by these two Medical Officers that this report relates.

There is no marked change in the vital statistics. The fall in the birth rate follows closely the fall in the National figure. Apart from Measles, there has been no undue prevalence of infectious disease. Tuberculosis still remains one of the most serious medical conditions we have to deal with, and efforts will be made in the future by means of mass Radiography and Vaccination to reduce its incidence.

I wish to thank your Clerk and the members of his staff for their help and guidance in introducing me to the work of your District ; in particular, I wish to record my appreciation to your Sanitary Inspector for his ready and willing co-operation at all times and for his assistance in enabling me to compile this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

L. RICH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population 19,630

Births

					Total	Male	Female
Live Births	{	Legitimate	...	...	234	131	103
		Illegitimate	...	...	9	1	8
Still Births	{	Legitimate	...	...	6	4	2
		Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated average population							
mid 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.4
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the							
population...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.5
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births						...	24.1
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total population...					...	...	.3
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 total							
population...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.36

Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths is shown as follows :—

					Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	9	6	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births				...		...	37
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales				...		...	29.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...						...	38.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births						...	.0

Deaths

					Total	Male	Female
Deaths, all ages...	...	...	...	...	234	124	110
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population				...			17
Death Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the							
population...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.5

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the past year.

Cause	Total	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic disease	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	4	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	2	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	24	14	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	2	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	27	12	15
Coronary disease, angina	31	23	8
Hypertension with heart disease	9	8	1
Other heart diseases... ..	56	20	36
Other circulatory disease	3	2	1
Influenza	7	3	4
Pneumonia	9	8	1
Bronchitis	6	2	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	2	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	—	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	25	10	15
Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	1
All other accidents	4	4	—
Suicide	7	5	2
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Total	234	124	110

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :

Puerperal Sepsis 0

Other Maternal causes... .. 0

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births—0.

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area

Care of Mothers and Young Children

The Infant Welfare Centres established continue to carry out most valuable work in connection with the Care of Mothers and Young Children.

In addition, Health Visiting is carried out by Nurses specially trained for the job, who follow up the work done in the Welfare Centre by regular attendance at the homes of the people.

The main purpose of Welfare Centres and Health Visiting is to teach the mother, by means of Health Education, the principles and practice of the prevention of disease, both for herself and for her children.

Welfare foods and many kinds of dried milks are sold at the clinics at low prices. In addition, weaning foods considered suitable are made available.

Work at the clinics is helped considerably by the ready assistance of the voluntary helpers, and it is in no small measure due to the work of these worthy people that the clinics are so successful.

Home Nursing Service

The Nurses who form part of the Home Nursing Service are as follows:—

Nurse	Address	Telephone No.
A. M. Kirkwood	Sunshine Cottage, Butley Lane, Adlington	Prestbury 8360
E. Gornall	Nurse's Cottage, Monks Heath, Chelford	Chelford Rf. 216
J. Hughes	Church House, Chelford	Chelford 314
A. Bowyer	5, Wardle Crescent, Gawsworth.	Macclesfield 3329
E. Carruthers	1, Robin Crescent, Sutton	Sutton 363
W. Wareing	11, Brookside Ave., Poynton	Poynton 2137
M. A. Wright	7, Bollinside, Prestbury	Prestbury 8464
E. Lythgoe	Oakwood, Chapel Lane, Rainow	Bollington 2184

These nurses work mainly in collaboration with the General Practitioners, and form a most valuable service. In addition this, by making available skilled attention in the home, results in the lift of considerable pressure on the hospitals.

Vaccination and Immunisation

The work of immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough and Vaccination against Smallpox is mainly carried out by the General Practitioners in their surgeries and patients' homes, specially arranged clinics and welfare centres.

It is most important that a high percentage of children are always protected by immunisation against Diphtheria. This disease is likely to return in all its former virulence if a high immunisation rate is not maintained. The young married mother of to-day is no longer aware of the seriousness of Diphtheria, which, as is well known, has been practically eliminated as a serious disease in this country.

The value of Whooping Cough immunisation has definitely been established, and whilst it does not have the same high degree of protection as Diphtheria immunisation, it most certainly should be encouraged as a weapon to mitigate one of the most serious diseases of childhood.

Statistics

Diphtheria Immunisation

Pre-school children	...	...	108
School children	...	...	78
			<hr/>
			186
			<hr/>
Reinforcing injections	...	...	36

Whooping Cough Immunisation

Pre-school children	...	...	22
School children	...	...	7
			<hr/>
			29

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria & Whooping Cough)

Pre-school children	...	...	6
School children	...	...	5
			<hr/>
			11

Primary Vaccination

Pre-school children	...	...	118
School children	...	...	9
Adults	...	...	9
			<hr/>
			136

Re-Vaccination

Pre-school children	...	...	—
School children	...	...	6
Adults	...	...	47
			<hr/>
			53

Ambulance and Sitting Case Car Transport

As stated in previous reports the County Ambulance Service based in Macclesfield, continues to serve the greater part of the district. Ambulances, however, are always available from Congleton, Stockport, Alderley Edge, Whaley Bridge and Sandbach.

Owing to this comprehensive scheme of ambulance service, it is impossible to separate out the mileage as applying strictly to the Rural District, as there is much overlapping.

I am pleased to report, however, that complaints are few, and the cost per patient per mile is one of the lowest in the County.

Domestic Help Service

This amenity continues to expand, and provides a very much needed service in a Rural District. Many old people who do not wish to leave their homes, or for whom places cannot be found in old people's hostels, derive considerable benefit from the service of a home help.

Statistics relating to the Home Help Service provided in the Macclesfield Rural District during 1951 are as follows :—

Home Helps employed during 1951.

Full Time	...	...	...	1
Temporary	...	...	...	4
Casual	...	...	...	13
				—
				18

Home Helps employed at 31st December, 1951.

Full Time	...	...	...	—
Temporary	...	...	...	3
Casual	...	...	...	1
				—
				4

Applications received during 1951.

Confinement	...	...	...	16
Sickness	...	...	...	9
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	7
				—
				32

Cases attended during 1951.

Confinement	...	...	...	14
Sickness	...	...	...	13
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—
Aged and Infirm	...	..	...	8
				—
				35

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease

The following table gives an over-all picture of the prevalence of infectious disease in the district during 1951

It will be noted that Measles is still by far and away the most prevalent infectious disease. There has been a considerable drop in the incidence of Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever, as compared with last year.

I am pleased to report that there were no cases of Poliomyelitis throughout the year and, apart from one case of Tuberculosis, no death from infectious disease has been recorded.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1951

Disease	Age distribution											Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	4	12	1	1	1	—	—	—	3	—
Whooping Cough	1	1	2	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles.....	4	8	20	20	32	46	4	—	6	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	4	5	1	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	2	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1951 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1942.

NOTIFICATIONS — 1942 to 1951

	1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 — 5	...	3	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
5 — 15	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
15 — 25	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
25 — 35	1	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
35 — 45	1	...	2	...	2	...	2	1	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
45 — 55	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
55 — 65	1	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	1
65 and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 — 5	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
5 — 15	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 — 25	2	1	...	...	2	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1
25 — 35	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
35 — 45	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
45 — 55	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
55 — 65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
65 and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	13	12	7	6	11	1	7	4	6	6	2	4	1	11	3	6	2	10	2	2

DEATHS — 1942 to 1951

	1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 — 5	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 — 15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 — 25	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 — 35	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
35 — 45	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 — 55	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	4	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...
55 — 65	1	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and over	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 — 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 — 15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 — 25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 — 35	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...
35 — 45	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 — 55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 — 65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and over	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Total	3	1	2	1	9	1	6	..	7	...	6	1	4	...	4	...	4	1	1	...

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector for the information contained in the following sections of this report.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water

The public supply of water to the various parts of the district has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality, but again an exception must be made in respect of the Parish of Kettleshulme.

Not even the temporary expedient of augmenting the existing supply from Needham's Farm has yet been realised. The fencing off of the gathering grounds and the construction of cut off drains appears to have had the effect of eliminating the faecal pollution, but a supply such as this must always be suspect. Nor is the quality alone the only difficulty — of an estimated daily supply of 2,200 gallons at one period, the daily consumption of one farm only, at the same time proved to be 1,000 gallons, almost fifty per cent of the total yield.

The Geologist's report on the possibility of alternative sources of supply and the proposal to utilise water from a disused mine adit, known as Sponds Mine, is now under consideration.

The laying of water mains in Over Alderley is in progress, and a start has been made with laying the mains in readiness for utilising the supply from the Pott Shrigley Bore Hole, which was put down in 1949. The construction of a reservoir and ancillary works is still, however, necessary before water from the latter source can be made available.

The Parishes of Lyme Handley, Poynton-with-Worth, Great Warford, Chorley, Nether Alderley and the Newton Ward of Mottram St. Andrew, are within the statutory area of supply of the Stockport Corporation.

The Council has a small source works at North Rode, supplying the Parishes to the south of the area. The Parish of Kettleshulme is also supplied from a source works owned by the Council.

A preliminary report and proposals for the provision of a piped water supply for the Parish of Marton, which would also embrace parts of the Parishes of Henbury and Siddington, have been submitted to the appropriate Ministry for approval. The completion of such a scheme would allow for the abolition of the many unsatisfactory pump wells and would provide an adequate and wholesome supply of water for domestic and agricultural purposes.

The syphon has been replaced by electric pumps at the North Rode source works and the yield from the borehole has been increased appreciably : the quantity which can be supplied is much more reliable.

There are a number of private piped water supplies supplying groups of premises which could with advantage be further investigated as to the constancy of the supply and the proved quality. Random samples taken from these sources have been satisfactory, but serial sampling is necessary, so that the consumers can be assured of a sufficient supply of wholesome water.

Water for the remaining Parishes served by the public mains is purchased from the Stockport Corporation, the Borough of Macclesfield and the Urban District of Bollington.

None of the water passing into the public mains has been shown to have a solvent action on lead.

Seventeen samples of water were submitted to the Analyst for chemical examination and sixty-four were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The table below shows the number and results of samples taken.

PRIVATE SUPPLIES			PUBLIC SUPPLIES		
No. taken	Satis.	Unsatis.	No. taken	Satis.	Unsatis.
Chemical					
12	3	9	5	5	—
Bacteriological					
28	13	15	38	20	18

Regarding the eighteen unsatisfactory samples from public supplies, these were all from Kettleshulme and were principally serial samples taken in view of the previously known unsatisfactory condition of the water.

So far as private supplies are concerned, a brief note might well be added regarding a complaint of the dirty condition of drinking water from a pump well at licensed premises. On investigation and testing the drains, it was found that the drain taking the W.C. waste from the women's closet was fractured and drainage gaining access to the well. The well was built in dry brickwork and approximately thirty-six feet deep. The drains were re-laid and the well lined internally with engineering bricks set in cement, to within six feet of the bottom, the cavity between the new and existing brickwork being filled with fine washed gravel. After cleansing and sterilisation of the water system at the premises subsequent samples fell within the category accepted for rural water supplies in the Ministry of Health report on the Bacteriological Examination of water supplies. Cases such as these are infrequent, but nevertheless reveal the necessity for constant surveillance.

The mains extensions completed during the year only consisted of small lengths principally to housing sites. The number of houses having a piped supply direct to the house is 4,682, representing a population of approximately 16,339.

Drainage and Sewerage

The main sewer and disposal works for the village of Eaton were completed during the year. The total length of sewer laid was 808 yards. This system also deals with the drainage from sixteen Council houses recently constructed. It is an advantage to be able to make arrangements for sewerage existing properties when consideration is being given to sewage disposal from Council houses.

It is regrettable that the scheme for sewerage the village of Langley has not advanced beyond the stage of negotiation. Conditions such as obtain here cannot be allowed to pass without comment. Approximately fifty-eight houses are served by twenty-three pail closets and four privy middens. The roadway to the privies is unmade, and access is only possible in winter during the hard frosts and in summer after a long dry spell of weather. The privies are foul, and one particularly has gained notoriety as a "double decker," serving houses at a high and low level, faeces and ashes being deposited into the midden down a shaft approximately thirteen feet deep. Fortunately conditions such as these are rare in the Rural District, but by reason of their rarity are brought more sharply into relief.

In addition to the Langley area of Sutton, the Parishes of Kettleshulme, Bosley, Mottram St. Andrew, Chorley and Great Warford are in urgent need of sewerage.

The unsatisfactory maintenance of the small disposal plants installed for the disposal of sewage from Council Houses in various Parishes merits some comment and it may be appropriate here to quote an extract from a report made to the Health Committee on the sanitary circumstances in the village of Kettleshulme in August, 1951.

"Where sewage disposal facilities are provided, it is all too evident that there is little regular maintenance, with the result that a still badly polluted effluent is being discharged into the brook course and sundry ditches. The Council's sewage plant is no exception in this matter and its regular maintenance is one which might well be considered."

There has been no improvement at the Alderley Edge Sewage Disposal Works, which are situated in the Parish of Chorley, and it was necessary to raise certain matters with the Alderley Edge Urban District Council, particularly regarding the pollution of a ditch on the south-east side of the works, caused by untreated sewage overflowing from the beds. Remedial measures removed the cause for complaint, but what is virtually untreated sewage is being discharged into Mobberley Brook. The Whim Brook, into which the effluent from the southern sewage works of the Wilmslow

Urban District Council discharges, is also grossly polluted and gives rise to constant complaints from the Great Warford Parish Council.

Chorley and Great Warford Parishes are both unsewered, and the combination of polluted ditches and these two water courses, containing apparently half-treated sewage, may truly be referred to as a running sore.

Public Cleansing

The collection of refuse is carried out by the Council's staff, and three wagons are employed for the purpose. A weekly service is given in the populous Parish of Poynton, and a part of Prestbury. The Langley area of Sutton also has a weekly collection because of the necessity to empty pail closets. The remaining Parishes, or parts, have a fortnightly collection with the exception of Macclesfield Forest, Wildboarclough, Wincle (where common ashpits are emptied quarterly).

In common with many other Authorities a scheme was introduced for salvaging waste paper, and two trailers were purchased for this purpose. The high prices received for waste paper have been more than sufficient to cover the cost of the capital outlay.

The number of premises from which refuse is collected continues to increase, and the amount of work which can be done by the present staff and vehicles has almost reached its limit.

There are eight tips scattered throughout the district where refuse is disposed of. Tipping space is becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain and it may be necessary, in the future, to consider the concentration of tipping on fewer tips by the use of vehicles of a larger carrying capacity. The tip at Poynton is rapidly nearing completion and the provision of a new tip will have to be urgently considered. An area of land which could accommodate the refuse from Poynton for the next twenty or thirty years should be the objective. A long term policy is much to be preferred to one of seeking areas of disposal which are small in size and of short duration.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The following is a summary of the principal work which has been undertaken under the Public Health and Housing Acts. Ninety-three complaints were received and dealt with. Forty-four preliminary notices and thirteen statutory notices were served.

Record of Nuisances Abated and Work Carried Out

The following tables summarise some of the major sanitary matters dealt with:—

Dampness remedied, roofs, gutters, r.w.ps. etc. repaired	...	24
Housing defects repaired	... ..	29
Mains water supply provided	... ..	3

Record of Nuisances Abated, etc.—continued

Private water supply provided or existing supply improved	...	6
Drains repaired or cleansed	... ..	17
New sinks provided	... ..	4
Water closets repaired or renewed	... ..	8
Privies converted to W.C's	... ..	2
Privies converted to pails...	... ..	2
Pails renewed	... ..	2
Dustbins provided	... ..	33
Dirty premises cleansed	... ..	4
Accumulations removed	... ..	3
Nuisances arising from animals abated...	... ..	2

Inspections

Dwelling Houses under Public Health & Housing Acts	...	260
Water Supply	... ..	37
Water samples analysed	... ..	85
Drainage and Sewerage	... ..	158
Verminous and dirty premises	... ..	5
Foul accumulations	... ..	5
Animals kept in insanitary conditions	... ..	6
Refuse accommodation	... ..	49
Public cleansing	... ..	104
Infectious diseases	... ..	30
Premises disinfected	... ..	23
Rats and mice	... ..	20
Schools	... ..	7
Factories	... ..	23
Milk and dairies	... ..	13
Shops re meat and other foods	... ..	60
Food preparing premises	... ..	51
Ice cream premises...	... ..	36
Bakehouses	... ..	14
Slaughterhouses	... ..	5
Tents, vans and sheds	... ..	305
Public conveniences	... ..	30
Interviews with owners and contractors	... ..	32
Miscellaneous	... ..	61

Tents, Vans and Sheds

The survey of temporary structures and caravans which began in 1950 was completed during the year.

The total number of structures surveyed was two hundred and ninety-three and these are classified below :—

Temporary buildings	...	119
Caravans	...	139
Vehicle bodies	...	35

293

Of this number, thirty-three were used for permanent occupation. An analysis on the type of structure and the user is set out below :—

Temporary structures	...	...	14
Caravans	...	...	15
Vehicle bodies	...	...	4
Occupied by families	...	...	21
Single persons	...	...	12

It was intended to bring as many structures as possible under control under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and this covered approximately seventy-five per cent.

Approvals were granted for one hundred and twenty-four individual structures and three sites were also approved, giving accommodation for sixty structures in all. Consideration is being given to the approval of other sites in an attempt to effect a stricter control on this type of development. The difficulty of finding suitable sites and persons who are willing to carry out the works required to meet the standards laid down, for a doubtful return on the capital expended, makes progress in the provision of new sites slow. The Council has set its face against providing sites for the stationing of permanently occupied caravans, but this cannot be said to be a major problem in the area. The chief desire of caravanners is to find individual secluded sites which are used for week-end recreation only, but, in order to control this and existing development, it is necessary to show that some provision has been made by the Local Authority for accommodating this increasingly popular type of recreation. Both site and structure approvals are subject to conditions designed to cover essential planning requirements. The Cheshire County Council and the Peak Park Planning Board (the latter body is now controlling planning matters in certain " hill " parishes in the east of the district) have adopted a policy of refusing applications for siting converted vehicle bodies used as caravans, and efforts are being made to eliminate those already sited in the Rural District.

Rats and Mice Destruction

The statistics in regard to the operation of the Damage by Pests Act, 1949, are set out below. This Act places an obligation on Local Authorities to inspect the district for infestations, carry out the destruction of rats and mice on their own properties, and to carry out the work of extermination either by agreement or default.

A ten per cent test baiting of sewers was carried out in accordance with the Ministry's requirements and no evidence of infestation was found.

Number of Properties inspected	...	...	...	...	...	188
Number of Properties infested by rats or seriously infested by mice	...	...	...	...	...	94
Number of Properties treated	...	...	...	...	...	112

Housing.

The Council has built six hundred and forty houses, of which four hundred and twelve are of post war construction. There are five hundred and ninety-three applications for Council Houses still outstanding, but it is doubtful whether this number indicates the actual need. Many of these applications are from persons who are adequately housed. On the other hand it may well be that families are living in sub-standard houses who should be re-housed in better accommodation and from whom no applications have been received.

Number of houses erected by Private Enterprise	...	...	11
Number of houses erected by Local Authority...	...	...	56
			—
	Total	...	67
			—

Inspection of Dwelling Houses

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	61
Number of inspections for the purpose	...	260
Remedy of defects during the year by service of informal notices	...	44
Remedy of defects during the year by service of formal notices	...	13
Number of demolition orders made under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	4
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (including houses under Demolition Orders prior to 1948)	...	1
Number of houses subject to Demolition Orders, occupied under licence	...	7
Houses purchased by Local Authority under Section 89 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	3

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk

There are one hundred and eighty-two distributors of milk within the area of the Macclesfield Rural District. The majority of these are producer retailers.

Licences issued in connection with the Milk Special Designations Order, 1949, are set out below :—

	Dealers' Licences	Supplementary Licences
Pasteurised	2	2
Sterilised	6	3
Tuberculin Tested	5	2

Meat and Other Foods

All home-killed meat for consumption in the area is slaughtered within the Borough of Macclesfield and is inspected before distribution to the retailers.

There are five licensed slaughterhouses in the area. One is used extensively during the winter months for the slaughtering of cottagers' pigs.

The following articles of food were surrendered as being unfit for human consumption :—

Home Killed Meat	...	...	...	30 lbs.
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	28 lbs.
Tinned Ham	...	...	...	229 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	8 lbs.
Butter	...	...	...	14 lbs.
Fruit	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	14 lbs.
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	11 tins

Ice Cream

Number of premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream.

Hot mix	...	...	...	2
Cold mix	...	...	...	3
				5

Number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	...	32
Number of samples of ice-cream submitted for examination	...	9
Number satisfactory	...	9
Number unsatisfactory	...	nil

A new structure has been erected by one occupier for the manufacture of ice-cream by the hot mix process where originally the manufacture was carried out in the domestic scullery. In another case of new premises to be used for the manufacture of ice cream, the constructional work was not completed by the end of the year. The majority of the premises registered for the sale of ice-cream, sell prepacked ice-cream and call for a minimum of supervision. Thirty-six visits were made specifically in connection with the inspection of premises where ice-cream is manufactured or sold.

Food Preparing Premises

Fifty-eight premises were visited where food is sold, or prepared for sale, and copies of the Food Handling Bye Laws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, left with the occupiers. Whilst it is understood that the Food Handling Bye Laws are only the first step in the campaign towards safer and cleaner food, it is

noteworthy that many of the requirements are arbitrary and subject to the proviso “ as may be reasonably necessary ”. Although this may give officers a good deal of scope to interpret according to the needs of individual circumstances it also results in protracted correspondence and visits in some instances where the Local Authority’s recommendations are the subject of contention.

Present legislation concerning food premises has been found to be particularly lacking in powers to deal efficiently with such matters as the absence of a sufficient and wholesome water supply to food premises in a rural area and the use of rooms for the preparation and storage of food which are also used for domestic purposes or which are of too limited dimensions.

Factories Acts

Premises	Number on Register	No. of Inspection s	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecu- ted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	3	—	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	57	19	3	—
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	60	19	3	—

Cases in which defects were found.		
Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were	
	Found	Remedied
Sanitary conveniences—		
(a) Insufficient	1	...
(b) Unsuitable or defective... ..	3	1
Totals ...	4	1

